

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04933 231323Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /081 W

-----084422 231332Z /47

O 231236Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO RUECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2249

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4933

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, SF, WA

SUBJECT: AHTISAARI DEPARTS

1. AUGUST 23 PRESS REPORTS QUOTE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
IN A PRESS CONFERENCE PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE,
MARTTI AHTISAARI AS SAYING "WE NEED ENOUGH TIME FOR
EVERYONE TO SETTLE DOWN AND FOR PEOPLE TO REPATRIATE
THEMSELVES TO THE TERRITORY." HE ALSO WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE POLITICAL PARTIES ARE NOT SO GREAT AS TO
BE UNBRIDGEABLE.

2. AHTISAARI APPARENTLY MADE NO COMMENT REGARDING HIS FINAL DAY OF
TALKS WITH AG STEYN OTHER THAN REPORTEDLY
TO REITERATE THAT THE KEY ISSUES RAISED BY POLITICAL
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PARTIES WERE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS, THE DATE OF
ELECTIONS AND INDEPENDENCE, AND AN OVERALL TIMETABLE
FOR THE NAMIBIAN SETTLEMENT. THE CITIZEN AUG. 23 QUOTES
HIM AS SAYING, "BUT THESE ARE ISSUES OF A TECHINICAL
NATURE WHICH SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO COM-
PROMISE THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA AS A WHOLE
IN THEIR SEARCH

FOR A GENUINE AND TRUE INDEPENDENCE." ASKED DIRECTLY
ABOUT A TIME SCHEDULE, AHTISAARI IS QUOTED AS REPLYING,
"SO FAR I HAVE NOT SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THE TIME SCHEDULE
AND I AM NOT GOING TO SAY ANYTHING NOW."

3. ATHISAARI REPORTEDLY SAID ALL VIOLENCE MUST STOP
BEFORE FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD AND THAT AT
LEAST TWO WEEKS WOULD PASS BEFORE THE UN
SECURITY COUNCIL COULD MEET TO DISCUSS THE SYG'S
REPORT WHICH WILL FOLLOW AHTISAARI'S PAPER TO THE SYG. AMONG THE
ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED AFTER SECURITY COUNCIL IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE PROPOSALS, AHTISAARI IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID, ARE THE WHOLE
REGISTRATION PROCESS, DISCRIMINATORY LEGISLATION IN
THE TERRITORY, AND THE MATTER OF REFUGEES AND POLITICAL
PRISONERS.
EDMONDSON

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